8th September 1928]

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" In view of the answer given on the 14th March 1927, may I ask the hon. Member to make enquiries ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " I do not remember what the question referred to by the hon. Member is. I shall just enquire."

Emigration

Labourers from Madras working in the Assam plantations.

*236 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the information which the Government possess regarding the number of coolies from Madras now working in the Assam plantations ;

(b) their conditions according to the latest information available to the Government ; and

(c) whether the Government will consider the desirability of sending a non-official deputation there to study and report on the conditions of Madras labourers there ; and if not, why not ?

A.—(a) The number of coolies working in the Assam plantations for the year ending 30th June 1926 was reported to be 53,615. During the year 1926-27, 11,376 persons were recruited. The Government have no information as to the actual numbers now working in the plantations.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The Government do not consider that there is any necessity at present to adopt the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (c) of the question, in view of the fact that there are more than half a lakh of labourers working in Assam plantations, may I know the reason why the Government do not consider it necessary to send a non-official deputation to study and report on the conditions of the labourers there ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—

" We cannot send a deputation to Assam unless there is reason to suspect that there is something wrong there."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if the Government have any means, through official agencies at least, of knowing the conditions of these labourers ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Yes, we have."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Are the Government satisfied, Sir, that those conditions are such as not to call for any enquiry ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " The Government are satisfied, Sir."